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Recommended Citation

University of Montana--Missoula. Office of University Relations, "Linebackers "quick, agile, hard-hitting;" Bob Beers and Gret Paresa appear as sure starters" (1967). *University of Montana News Releases, 1928, 1956-present*. 2862.

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9-8-67
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LINEBACKERS "QUICK, AGILE, HARD-HITTING";
BEERS, PARESA APPEAR AS SURE STARTERS

MISSOULA---

This is the second in a series of articles on different phases of the University of Montana football team. This article, preceded by one on the defensive secondary, will be followed by discussions of the defensive line, offensive backfield, and offensive line by coaches in charge of these areas.

"They're probably not the biggest, but they're as quick, agile, and hard-hitting as any in our league."

That's how University of Montana assistant grid coach Pinky Erickson evaluates his four-man crew of linebackers after one full week of fall practice.

When the Silvertips open Sept. 16 in Grand Forks against the University of North Dakota, Erickson says Bob Beers, a 5-10, 200-pounder from Beaverton, Ore., and Greg Paresa, a 6-0, 195-pounder from Kahului, Maui, Hawaii, will be the starters at linebacker, but they will have able backup help from sophomores Rick Unruh and Ron McGuckin.

Unruh, a service veteran from Everett, Wash., played high school ball under Erickson in Everett and then went to Everett JC for one season before joining the Army. He is 6-0 and weighs 190 pounds.

McGuckin came up from last year's frosh squad, and the 5-10, 192-pounder from Boulder, Colo. works behind Beers at the left linebacker spot.

"McGuckin and Unruh need a little more experience," Erickson says, "but they are prepared to fill in adequately if necessary."

Beers and Paresa, in all workouts thus far, have led the defense in tackles, assists and pass interceptions. Beers was a first-team All-American at Columbia Basin JC last year, and Paresa starred at Sierra JC in California.

"These two should be the bulwark of our interior defense," Erickson said.

With these four in good health, Grizzly coaches, especially Erickson, appear highly satisfied with the Montana linebacking situation.